Nation

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Ouje-Bougoumou elects new Chief

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editorial

Political games may yet undo our deal

by Will Nicholls

Money in the bank? Not yet.

Even though we voted by the tune of 90 per cent to accept a new relationship agreement with the federal government, one that will see $1.4 billion in compensation paid out over 20 years, events in the Canadian capital could still derail the deal.

That's because the minority Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper is doing everything it can to get defeated in the House of Commons, and plunge Canada into a general election. If that happens, all bets are off.

You remember what happened to the $5 billion Kelowna Accord, which was negotiated by the Liberals under Paul Martin. Even before Harper had finished moving his hockey card collection into 24 Sussex Drive after his election in 2006, the deal wrangled the previous fall by AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine to improve Aboriginal life across Canada was nothing more than a forgotten pile of paper in the recycling bins behind Parliament Hill.

So it goes with the Europeans who rule this beautiful land. On Tuesday, Harper gave us a nice little nod in the Speech from the Throne, read out by Governor General Michaëlle Jean. In it, he called Canada "a society that is protective of the spirit of this bountiful land, a deep respect learnt from Aboriginal peoples."

A lovely phrase, that, if radically untrue. Indeed, it is little more than condescending rhetoric coined by Harper's speechwriter to soften this government's image as it prepares to go to the polls.

That's because the only purpose of this Throne Speech was to trigger an election by getting the opposition parties to vote against it and thereby defeat the government. And with right-wing planks on law-and-order, scrapping the Kyoto Accord and their stated intent to prolong Canada's role in the Afghan war at significant cost of blood and treasure, there was plenty for the opposition parties to oppose.

The NDP, riding high after stealing the riding of Outremont in a by-election in September, are game. The Bloc, after supporting the war fighting in Afghanistan and having propped up the government on many other occasions, have decided they can no longer be seen to support the Conservatives. That leaves the hapless Liberals, once Canada's so-called Natural Governing Party.

The Tories believe they can take advantage of a Liberal Party that is deeply unpopular in Quebec and steal enough seats here to scrape up a majority government. The Liberals of Stéphane Dion, divided and in disarray, have wisely managed to avoid that trap. But for how long? Will this government survive past March 2008, when our new relationship agreement is due to be voted on by the House of Commons?

That vote is necessary before any cash changes hands. So, until then, the Crees are in limbo and the Grand Council will probably be sitting on pins and needles. Given our history since colonialism began, and given the fact that this deal was reached as compensation for Ottawa's refusal to respect an agreement signed in 1975 (the JBNQA), it's a fair question to ask: would a new government honour the deal?

More fair questions: If the Tories win a majority, would they give in to their looney-tune fringe on the far right and its assimilationist goals? In the admittedly unlikely event that Dion's Liberal Party regained power, would they feel compelled to reject an agreement negotiated by the hated Tories? Would they be tempted to gain revenge for the scrapped Kelowna Accord, which would have been the one significant achievement of Paul Martin's mostly wasted time in office?

We are yet confident that Ottawa, this time at least, will do the right thing. But until we see real cash in the bank, beware of wooden nickels and take nothing for granted.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month

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cover photo: Will Nicholls

featuring: Chief Louise Wapachee of Ouje-Bougoumou

rez notes

Where's our Trump?

by Sonny Orr

One thing I've noticed about our culture is that we don't have any Donald Trumps out there. Where's the rich tycoon with the ability to make a few million overnight? Where's the guy who can make a deal with the devil and walk away intact and with even more money in his account?

It seems that we are made up of people who can only spend, spend and spend more until the coffers are barren of any residual interest. I think that we need someone who is like the Don, someone who can make enough money to employ everyone and still earn enough respect to shake hands with friends and enemies alike.

The missing ingredients are money to invest, money to blow and money to lose. Other great ingredients which should be part of the cake is some kind of rising agent, like yeast or baking powder, so that at least the accounts can grow with the applied heat of interest and honest returns.

Why are we such a consumerist people, where we can only pay out and not get paid back? I'll tell you why: we believe in the commercials that program us to buy whatever product it tells us to, that's why.

We also tend to believe that we are a cash-rich nation, but that's only a myth that's retold over and over again by bureaucrats who have lost their budget to a people who say that they can handle the business end of things.

What's business and getting rich all about? It's about saving and investing in our future. The future, when planned wisely, should look rosy enough to profit from. I have some suggestions for making money hand over fist.

First, we could save the farmers of the south by offering our killing instincts for wild game and ferret out all the Canada geese that plague the southern fields for a buck. Then we could sell the meat to those who can't pluck worth a darn and to those who don't like the colour of blood and guts. We could make this work if only enough farmers were aware that there are people out there who actually like to eat the meat of the feathered pests.

Another way we could cash in is to market our gullibility for scams and use our people as live bait for telemarketers by answering the phone in Cree and insisting that they respond likewise. Meanwhile, we'd be holding the phone long enough to trace the call back to the unknowing scam artist in order to help bust those buggers once and for all and collect any rewards for invading our privacy.

Call me someone and try to sell me anything. But don't expect me to hand over any credit card numbers 'cause I ain't worth anything anyways.

The great Donald, however, seemed to have something that I wish I had (aside from the bushy head of hair): the ability to rebound from great deficit.

No matter the circumstance that had left him seemingly unable to come back, he still did it with aplomb and flair. If there is a Don out there, give me some advice on how to generate revenues that don't seem to end up in someone else's pocket.

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EDITORIAL BOARD
W. Nicholls, L. Stewart, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Amy German, Claire MacKinnon, X. Kataquapit, S. Orr

PHOTOGRAPHY
S. Bonspiel, D. Valade, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls

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LAYOUT & PRODUCTION
Richard Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
The Nation HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.beesum-communications.com
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
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Canada

Ouje-Bougoumou elects female chief

Louise Wapachee gets job back after six years

By Steve Bonspiel

Ouje-Bougoumou has bucked political convention by electing a female chief and the voters who supported Louise Wapachee October 9 are hoping to avoid a repeat of what happened six years ago.

In 2001 Wapachee was also elected, but only lasted a month in the chief's chair after an opposition group lobbied for and was granted a new election, although the legal grounds for the revote were not exactly clear.

Although the Cree-Naskapi Commission found no need for a new election, it did not seem to matter. In the subsequent election, Sam Bosum beat out Wapachee for chief.

This time around however, with Bosum choosing to run for councillor, Wapachee appears to be in the clear after edging out runner-up Reggie Neeposh 87-68 in the October 9 election.

"I feel pretty good, I'm excited," she told *the Nation*. "It's a new challenge for me." When asked if OJ was at last ready for a female chief, Wapachee quickly replied, "I think so."

Her four-year term could be full of changes as she plans to improve almost every aspect of OJ life.

"Unity and a common vision from the people are important," she said. "There are so many social issues affecting our people. We have to heal and grow to move forward."

One of the ways to do that is to give the people more of a say in their future. Wapachee plans on consulting community members in a series of workshop forums to get a better sense of where they want to go.

"I want to bring back the voice of the people and have them participate more," she said. "We're hoping to have community planning workshops so we can lay out our goals for the future on everything from development to programming. We used to come together and decide on a five- or ten-year plan. But that has stopped and I'd like to bring that back."

Wapachee is also personally affected by the OJ contamination crisis that arose when heavy metals from the mines near the community started to seep into the waterways and contaminate the fish a few years ago.

Her father's territory is in the Chibougamau Lake area where there were numerous mines and mining activity.

"My father can't drink the water and he can't fish," she said. "My first mandate as chief is to meet with the lawyers and find out more of what is happening. There are court proceedings right now that have been suspended numerous times. We are waiting for money from the government to help us with this."

Wapachee said continuing studies of the lakes and a change in ownership at one of the mining companies have all contributed to a rather slow process. In the meantime, people are getting cancer and dying.

"My father can't drink the water and he can't fish. My first mandate as chief is to meet with the lawyers and find out more of what is happening."

Wapachee is hoping help from the Grand Council and clear direction from the people will put enough pressure on the government to settle this issue.

"I'm very vocal about it and I've participated in the public hearings. I feel we need more of them," she said. "We need to hear more of what the tallymen and those that are impacted the most think.

"In our territory there are still a lot of people who hunt, fish and trap. It plays a big part in our lives."

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Education

Teachers' union demands reforms

Cree School Board pleads poverty

By Steve Bonspiel

A meeting recently in early October between the Northern Quebec Teacher's Association and the NQTA's Native Committee helped to formulate seven recommendations that, if implemented, could change the educational reality of the way Aboriginal children are taught in the north –and produce better test results and more highly qualified graduates.

The NQTA is based in Eeyou Istchee and Nunavik and it boasts 1400 members, 2/3 of which are Aboriginal. From its early origins as a union for non-natives, the NQTA and its large percentage of Cree and Inuit, are just beginning to realize their clout and are using their relatively new power to affect change and make the educational reality of the north better for the generations to come.

NQTA President Patrick D'Astous says that one of the more important recommendations to come out of the meeting is recommendation number three. It brings into question the education levels of the Cree and Inuit students and suggests a possible survey as a means to gauge what needs to be done to preserve Native languages and attain an educational level that will enable kids to be successful in today's society.

D'Astous says that recommendation number three is key to 'light the way' for his organization over the next three years by making sure the next step the Cree School Board takes towards bettering the education system in Eeyou Istchee is the right one.

"Not that we want to go against the government or the School Board," D'Astous told *the Nation*. "We just want to go along with the population and our members that are telling us maybe there is a problem there."

"Some of our teachers from the south are not motivated at the secondary level; they have students in their class that are not at the level they should be. The teachers think 'I'd like to do my best, but it is impossible in those conditions.'"

The current curriculum produces students who, even if they graduate, are often not ready for CEGEP and they must enroll in a program like Cree Pathways at John Abbott College. That program helps Cree students acclimatize to the city and encourages them to brush up for a full year on subjects where their grades are weak.

D'Astous said that the current method seems to be to take those kids who do not deserve to be in a certain grade and try to make them learn to the best of their abilities, a system, he says, that is set up to fail and should be ratified as soon as possible.

These recommendations will be brought to a meeting with the NQTA's Executive Committee on October 22 and 23 2008.

In order to deliver lessons properly, teachers must also pull up their socks and take more training courses to raise their teaching level and hone their skills.

photo courtesy of NQTA

"Recommendation four is kind of at the heart of the system," said D'Astous. "Are we committed to really give the training needed by those new Native teachers, who are the pioneers in northern Quebec? Or are we, meaning society, the governments and myself included, just closing our eyes and pinching our nose expecting things to move on in the best way?"

"Are we taking the time to ask those teachers if they feel they were trained properly? This is at the heart of the current education problem up north. We must make our teachers as qualified as they need to be to teach our kids," said D'Astous, who is married to a woman in Waswanipi. They have a four-year-old son who will soon be entering the education system.

Cree School Board Chairman Gordon Blackned agrees with D'Astous, saying that it was the CSB who brought up the idea years ago, but, he added, finding the money is the biggest problem.

"We're stuck right now financially to begin a program that is going to be community-based," said Blackned. "We were supposed to begin this fall, but we have to hold off on it until the next budget review in April," Blackned said of the four-year course with McGill to upgrade the teacher's skills.

Recommendation number two is another important step for Aboriginal teachers.

A complaint was filed with Human Rights last year because for years previous, Native teachers were not allowed to pay into the Quebec Pension Plan because they do not pay tax. A nominal supplemental fee was given to Native teachers during those years, but after years of negotiation and the threat of legal action, the Quebec government finally allowed Native teachers to pay into the fund last year.

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- Family healing and suicide prevention
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- **Residential schools & intergenerational family healing**
- Suicide & intergenerational transmission of trauma
- Suicide prevention, intervention, & postvention workshops
- Workshop for youth, **creation of a network: *"Youth for life"***
- Community strategies concerning suicide & sexual abuse
- Self care for caregivers: **self care for the managers**
- Sharing and healing circles

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: (DEC. 1-2-3)

- Healing from the effects of generational trauma on individuals, families & communities: 1 day (Dec.1) **Jane Middleton-Moz**
- Values & traditions of a true human: 1 day (Dec. 2) **Tom Porter**, Mohawk Elder
- Community based strategies for family healing: 1 day (Dec. 3)
- Applied suicide intervention skills training (ASIST): 3 days (Dec. 1-3)
- Self care for caregivers: 3 days (Dec. 1-3) **Wanda Gabriel & Suzy Goodleaf**
- Healing complex trauma & post traumatic stress disorder: 3 days (Dec. 1-3) **Dennis Windego**
- Building a bridge for change; bringing youth & adults together: 3 days (Dec. 1-3) **Recovery Foundation**
- Crisis response planning for communities & agencies: 3 days (Dec.1-3) **Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute**
- Surviving suicide: *"From trauma to healing"*: 3 days (Dec. 1-3)
- Restoring our good parenting practices: 2 days (Dec. 2-3)

Waskaganish elections for Chief, again

The Waskaganish Band Council has called a special election for Chief to take place on November 7. Nominations will be accepted at a meeting on October 22, and the advance polls will be held November 1.

Chief Gordon Blueboy resigned abruptly last month citing "resistance" to his leadership, after only one month in office.

Slim victory for new Ouje Chief

Louise Wapachee was elected Chief of Ouje-Bougoumou October 9 with only 31 per cent of the vote in a five-way race, beating out Reggie Neeposh by a slim margin of 19 votes.

This will be Wapachee's second term as chief, having been first elected to a voided term as chief six years ago. This vote marked the end of outgoing Chief Sam Bosum's two-term reign.

The election also saw Anthony Hughboy defeat Randy Bosum as the new Deputy Chief. The candidates and their official numbers of votes are as follows:

Elections for Chief	**Number of Votes**
1. Louise Wapachee (elected)	87
2. Reggie Neeposh	68
3. Gaston Cooper	51
4. Sydney Coonishish	38
5. Kenny Mianscum	33
Elections for Deputy Chief	
1. Anthony Hughboy (elected)	147
2. Randy Bosum	104
3. Paul Shecapio	31
Elections for Councilor (elected)	
1. Darlene Shecapio-Blacksmith	137
2. Gerry Bosum	120
3. Janie Wapachee	118
4. Sam R. Bosum	107
5. Patrick Mianscum	94

Hundreds of caribou drown in Caniapiscau River

More than 300 caribou have drowned while attempting to cross the Caniapiscau River near Limestone Falls. Barriers, erected on the east side of the river after 10,000 caribou drowned at the same site in 1984, failed to keep the animals from herding into the water on the west side October 8 and 9.

The Kuujjuaq Municipal Corporation has installed temporary barriers to prevent more caribou from drowning.

The Makivik Corporation is currently working with the municipality and other related organizations to assess the funds needed to clean up the dead animals and install and repair the barriers on the banks of the Caniapiscau.

The KMC and the Makivik Corporation will ask the Quebec government to finance the work. Recent heavy rains contributing to the high water levels of the river are believed to have caused the drownings.

UN studies Canada's housing issues

Miloon Kothari, the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, is in Canada on an 11-day fact-finding mission to assess how well Canada is faring when it comes to housing those who need it most.

The UN Rapporteur has set four themes for his special mission: Women and housing; Aboriginal people and housing; homelessness; and the social impact of the Vancouver Olympics.

In Kahnawake October 9, Kothari met with AFNQL Chief Ghislain Picard, Chief Simon Coocoo of Wemotaci, Chief Raphael Picard of Pessamit and Mr. Jimmy Papatie a representative of Kitcisakik. The chiefs used the opportunity to press the need to eliminate the housing backlog in their communities, said Picard.

"We probably would need to build 7,500 homes tomorrow in order to be comparable to the rates that overall Quebec residents enjoy as a province which is a ratio of about two people per home," said Picard. "For the aboriginal communities it's more like four or five per home."

Kothari will be presenting the findings of his special mission in Ottawa October 22 after visiting Edmonton, Vancouver and Toronto along with various other native reserves across Canada.

Vigil for missing Native women

The Native Women's Association of Canada's "Sisters in Spirit" staged Montreal's first-ever candlelight vigil for murdered and missing aboriginal women in the city's downtown October 4.

CKUT Radio Native Solidarity News producer Irkar Beljaars, who helped organize the event, described the gathering as intimate, drawing 35 to 40 people.

Ellen Gabriel of the Quebec Native Women's Association delivered a speech, as did Theresa Ducharme from NWAC and Piper Huggins of the NDP.

In the crowd were members of various student groups and Native associations; many curious passersby were also drawn to the event.

"There were a lot of people there didn't know about it and just were passing by and just sat down and listened to all of the speeches," said Beljaars. "They were very concerned and came up to me afterwards and thanked me for organizing the event which is going to be just one in many that I am going to be doing for Native women."

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Grand Chief Mukash

DEAL SEALED

EENOUCH VOTE 90% FOR NEW AGREEMENT WITH CANADA

By Steve Bonspiel

The referendum results are in for the new $1.4 billion agreement with the federal government and a whopping 90.2 per cent of those who voted said yes to accepting the cash and working towards Cree self-government.

The agreement obligates Canada to deliver $1.4 billion over 20 years as compensation for failing to live up to their end of the bargain under the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The deal was the subject of far less controversy than the 2002 Paix des Braves with Quebec because it does not give up a body of water.

Two of the key issues during negotiations for the new agreement were the need for a Cree constitution that would enable the Grand Council to act as a true governing body and political representative of the Crees. As well, the "Assumed Federal JBNQA Responsibilities" will hand over responsibility of key issues such as housing and maintenance to the Crees.

Despite the overwhelming consensus in favour of the agreement, the referendum saw a fairly healthy turnout of almost 60 per cent of the 10,801 eligible voters. Of the 6,421 voting, 5,790 voted yes compared to only 583 who rejected the deal.

The following is an excerpt from the agreement:

Cree Nation Governance

The purpose of the Chapter on Governance is twofold: (a) to equip the CRA with by-law making powers similar to those of the Cree bands under the CNQA (Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act), through proposed amendments to the CNQA; and (b) set out a process for negotiations leading to a Governance Agreement, Governance Legislation and possible amendments to the JBNQA and the CNQA concerning a Cree Nation Government.

If the negotiations are successful, this would expand Cree Nation governance beyond the CNQA powers by establishing the structures and powers of a Cree Nation Government and the relationship of such Government with Cree bands and federal and provincial governments.

The agreement also contains a provision that ensures Quebec, the Inuit and Naskapi would be a party to certain aspects of negotiations that involved their interests.

It also said:

Assumption of Certain Federal JBNQA Responsibilities:

The Agreement provides that the CRA, and subsequently the Cree Nation Government, will assume for the 20-year term of the Agreement the responsibilities of Canada in regard to certain provisions of the JBNQA referred to as the Assumed Federal JBNQA Responsibilities, and will have full and complete discretion to implement these Assumed Federal JBNQA Responsibilities for that term.

The Assumed Federal JBNQA Responsibilities comprise the federal share of capital costs, operations and maintenance (including insurance) and programs and services, as applicable.

Now that the deal has been ratified by the Cree people, Ottawa must still pass it into law through the House of Commons. Once that is complete, the Coon Come lawsuits (including suits #1, #2 and parts of lawsuit #3) will be definitively dropped.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash said that the agreement is good for the Cree Nation and it is time to move forward.

"We've been trying to get this deal for the last 32 years and it's finally come to a conclusion," Mukash said. "It was due for a long, long time and that's why I'm very happy that the Cree Nation has decided to accept it.

Mukash said the Crees now have to take responsibility to manage their own affairs with good governance practices.

"It will be a good opportunity for the Cree Nation in the next 20 years to prove that we can manage our own affairs no matter what sector it is, whether it's economic, industrial or policing or just governance in general," he said.

Mukash credited past leaders with paving the way for the current Cree government to ink the final agreement.

"We have come a long way," he said. "Shortly after the signing of the agreement in 1975, the leaders already had experience with both levels of government in which they did not want to live up to their obligations under the JBNQA. The Cree Nation decided to pursue the governments by way of a court case in 1989. It's good to see that finally the governments have responded to the strategy we took over the last 20 years to get them to live up to their obligations."

Still, others were not convinced that this was the right way to go.

"It's just another way for the government to get to our Cree rights and lands to totally own them," said Ouje-Bougoumou community member John Bosum. "And then we're stuck paying taxes as well. I always thought that money can't buy happiness and the more you have the more miserable you become."

Waswanipi's Irene Neeposh thinks that the agreement is a start, but there is a lot of hard work ahead.

"I think it is something that was long overdue in respect to the JBNQA," she said. "But timing is everything, and our people weren't ready at the time to assume the subject responsibilities. We are now ready to assume these responsibilities. It will require a lot of work, but we can do this. We must make sure we come together as a Nation and see that this is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Bertie Wapachee adamantly opposed the Paix des Braves. He is still hoping to save the Rupert River and is working towards that goal with organizations like the Fondation Rivières and Rupert Révérence.

"With this deal, I can't say whether it's good or bad, I haven't decided yet, but I supported it because I felt it would help our people for years to come and that it doesn't require us to let something so beautiful go in return," he said.

One interesting part of the agreement includes the creation of Ouje-Bougoumou Category 1A lands in the form of a complementary agreement shortly after the ink dries. This move will officially end the ambiguous status of Ouje-Bougoumou as a less-than-fully recognized Cree community.

The document also stipulated a need to discuss other complementary agreements such as the ability to alter specific JBNQA content between those parties affected, without having to get consent from the non-affected parties.

The line, "Changes to incorporate in the JBNQA final territorial descriptions of category 1 lands," is ambiguous but could mean the expansion of the current limiting boundaries of the nine communities. With a rapidly growing population, these existing community limits will not likely be sufficient when the agreement ends 20 years after it is signed.

Grand Chief Mukash was asked about a possible looming federal election and Ottawa's track record of not respecting signed treaties.

"There's going to be $1.14 billion paid to the Crees in March 2008 if there's no election," he said. "When you have the money in your account the government cannot come back and take it away. You are more or less paid in advance for the next 20 years, so it's really up to the Cree people on how they want to manage the funds. And to make a plan to carry out the responsibilities that are being transferred to the Cree Nation."

Mukash also said that the current dispute over who controls certain sections of land in the James Bay Municipality will be part of the negotiations after the agreement is signed. The JBM mayors currently have quite a bit of clout over Cree land and it irritates the Grand Council because they do not have a member sitting on the MBJ board to consult over decisions affecting Cree territory.

> THE DEAL WAS THE SUBJECT OF FAR LESS CONTROVERSY THAN THE 2002 PAIX DES BRAVES WITH QUEBEC BECAUSE IT DOES NOT GIVE UP A BODY OF WATER.

Signing the deal

When the Red Chute project was announced in March 2007, it was the first time that the Grand Council heard about the project. They feel they are being blindsided by Bill 40, which was passed in 2001 in Quebec's National Assembly to give the JBM mayors extensive rights and power over category 2 and 3 lands.

Mukash said the Crees are looking towards a time where they will have the final say over how bright their future will be.

"We have done very well over the last 32 years in terms of governing ourselves," he said. "We've been able to make sure that our treaty rights were not eroded in some way that we eventually disappear."

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> Economic development does not mean: give a contract to the local development corporation by negotiating with yourself... Economic development does not mean: sell all your rivers, lakes, mountains, streams, creeks or land so you can keep injecting money into social housing.
>
> Billy Diamond

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE: PART TWO

'Crees are not that kind of girl!'

By Will Nicholls

All 93 delegates agreed that 10 years was too long a time to have another Cree Economic Conference. The last one was in 1997 and had only 36 delegates in attendance. Times have changed, however. Communities realize they need to be proactive in economic development.

And it's more complicated than simply signing a piece of paper with one level of government or another, as keynote speaker Dr. Billy Diamond said in his speech.

"Right now people are looking at the Rupert project, the public works projects that are coming from the Paix des Braves funds and now potentially the new federal agreement – this is not economic development," said Diamond. "Economic development does not mean: give a contract to the local development corporation by negotiating with yourself. Economic development does not mean: sell all your rivers, lakes, mountains, streams, creeks or land so you can keep injecting money into social housing."

It means that traditional methods of Cree economic development are being questioned. In other words, "We have to let business people take care of business and the politicians take care of politics," said Diamond. "When the band councils, the

Air Creebec's Albert Diamond and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff

Waswanipi's Jack Blacksmith, Billy Diamond and Nemaska's Rodney Hester

Sabtuan Continuing Education Services delegates

The Cree Nation Referendum approves the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee

Congratulations to the Cree Nation!
The Cree Nation has spoken since a majority of over 90% of the Crees who voted, decided to accept the proposed agreement with Canada. Moreover, the total numbers of voters represented 58% of all Cree voters. The decision not only exceeded the 25% majority acceptance required by the Agreement, but also more than half of all Cree voters approved the Agreement. This gives the Grand Council of the Crees the mandate to complete the self-government proposal for a Cree Constitution set out in the Agreement and also to entertain discussions with Canada and Quebec on the implication of the Crees in the governance of the region, Eeyou Istchee.

In approving this Agreement, I believe that we have taken an important step in taking over responsibility for our own affairs. The decision demonstrates the confidence that the Cree People have in their present leaders and past leaders. On behalf of the Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and on behalf of all members of the Grand Council – Cree Regional Authority I thank all of those who participated in the referendum for exercising their right to give direction to the future of their Nation. For those of you who decided not to participate and for those of you who did not agree to accept the proposed agreement, I ask you to work with us and to come and be part of the governance of our lands, communities and Cree Nation.

I look forward to working with all Crees and community leaders over the coming years in the operation of Cree government and in the efforts to define a new future for our children and future generations. I pledge to seek consensus among our people on these important issues as we move forward.

During the information sessions in the communities I was impressed by the spirit and will of our people to build a future for the Cree Nation. I saw a determination to address present problems with confidence. This new agreement will provide us with resources to continue building our communities and to operate our governments as well as increasing our presence in Eeyou Istchee. In moving forward we also resolve past grievances against Canada. We will do this by seeking agreement among ourselves on the way to proceed in the future. In doing this we must remember that together as the Cree Nation, we stand strong.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

RESULTS:

Yes	5790
No	583
Invalid Ballots	48
Total Votes Cast	6421
Achieved Percentage of Yes votes compared to total Ballots Cast	90.17%

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie

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(ᐃᔨᔭ ᐊᒋᐢ)
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)

Mistissini Delegation

The boys of Whapmagoostui with Sonny Orr

Cree Regional Authority or even Creeco get directly involved in business activity they are harming their people. They are using the funds that are intended for everyone's welfare to compete against individuals. I am tired of submitting bids on projects only to find out that I was competing with my own money!"

The Creeco Report identified a need to develop long-term joint ventures or partnerships that transfer knowledge and skills to Cree entrepreneurs along with a healthy share of profits. The report called for more support for the private sector, including a fund that can work to complement other existing funding sources outside of Eeyou Istchee.

> In regards to students who graduate from high school, from technical or professional studies, from college or from university, there is a need to provide these graduates with suitable and meaningful employment. We need to consider the messages are we sending when we don't accommodate our successful graduates?
>
> Creeco Report

Such a venture-capital fund was discussed when the Paix des Braves Agreement was being sold to the Cree people but hasn't been implemented. In fact, the Cree Development Corporation was created with this in mind, but it has never received a sufficient portion of the Paix des Braves funding to even begin to think about becoming the "economic engine" of the Cree communities that it was vaunted to be.

Conference delegates were restricted to Crees, even though many non-Cree companies were interested in participating. Creeco justified the policy by saying Crees needed to sit down and talk among themselves for a change.

"One of the things we always wanted to do was to have a Cree conference and with the report formulate something that was a Cree direction," said Creeco Chairperson Jack Blacksmith. "Not something that comes from one person in an office. Hopefully the politicians will now take this and go forward from that."

The conference looked at all aspects of economic development, including quality-of-life issues that are critical to a healthy, well-rounded community. It was emphasized that to create and retain non-public sector jobs, support must be available for businesses to help them start up or expand.

"Give our entrepreneurs the opportunity to remain connected with the community," said Diamond. "You cannot have an entrepreneur without a community; that is the market. It is the same as you cannot have a Cree without a community."

One of the key areas of concern was that the emphasis on education has to increase dramatically if the Cree labour force is going to be prepared for employment. The 2005 Cree School Board statistics show poor academic performances at all levels of education. The drop-out rate is also quite high for the Cree student population overall.

"In regards to students who graduate from high school, from technical or professional studies, from college or from university, there is a need to provide these graduates with suitable and meaningful employment," reads the Creeco report. "We need to consider the messages are we sending when we don't accommodate our successful graduates."

The Report recommends that a study be undertaken to quantify the total economic costs of the Crees' high drop-out rate. It must emphasize the lost dollar value but also the lost human resource value potential.

Another area was the concern of whether or not Cree economies locally and regionally would be able to create sufficient job growth to employ the huge Cree youth population.

Said Diamond, "Cree territory is not growing but Crees are. These means we have to start expanding our markets. We have

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Standing (left to right): Helen Iserhoff, Harriet Linton, Rose Iserhoff, Daisy Stephen, Laurie Ann Georgekish, Emily Sam, Stephanie Gilpin, Jeannie Masty, Rita M. Trapper

Sitting (left to right): Beatrice Petawabano, Bella R. Jolly, Annika Vachon, Lily Napash

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competitive businesses; we even have non-Native partners and joint ventures. Why are we only in our back yard? How come I don't see signs at construction sites in the south with the logos of our companies? I am not talking about the far south either, but nearby in Val d'Or, Chibougamau, Roberval, Amos and even Matagami. You mean to tell me that the market is so tough in Matagami, we can't get in? We have no choice: we have to start accessing these markets instead of allowing the entrepreneurs from these markets to come work in our homes. It makes me feel like the girl whose boyfriend doesn't want to introduce her to his parents. I am not that kind of girl!"

Abel Rabbitskin with friend

> "There is a need for the Cree to be more assertive over the land and resources within their territory. People are looking to the leadership to respond to this."
>
> Creeco Report

The conference identified some problems in this regard as the creation and enforcement of MBJ by-laws within the territory is causing serious issues for the Cree and their development. "There is a need for the Cree to be more assertive over the land and resources within their territory," the Report observed. "People are looking to the leadership to respond to this."

An analysis of the conference shows a desire among Cree entrepreneurs for a real economy but pressures must be placed on the leadership to create the conditions suitable to the creation of a larger business class.

Another conference is already in the planning stages and more Cree entrepreneurs will be invited to attend and show what they can offer the Crees. In the meantime, "Buy Cree First." is the new rallying cry.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

Waskaganish's Hugo Hester with Mistissini's Don MacLeod

Rodney Hester presents bear paw snowshoes to John S. Matoush.

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HEALTHY HALLOWEEN FUN

MORE OR LESS!

By Amy German

The world is about to get much scarier, spookier, sillier and sweeter as Halloween is creeping up on us. If you are gearing up for festivities of your own, helping out with a school Halloween party or are planning a community celebration, the Nation *has come up with some top-notch ideas for the most ghoulish day of the year and we have kept your health in mind.*

It's about what you do, not what you eat

As health concerns are on our minds these days, coping with diabetes or trying to keep one's weight down as a means of preventing its onset can be difficult on a day when sweets and treats are front and centre. Rather than depriving the little ones of the festive little delicacies, the American Diabetes Association recommends that moderation be exercised for foods high in carbohydrates, including sweets and starches. Even diabetic children can have a treat once in a while so long as the carbs are compensated for in their meal planning and the child gets sufficient exercise. We have provided a few spooky treat ideas at the end of this article and a lot of Halloween themed active fun to burn off those treats.

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN GAMES AND SPOOKY FUN ACTIVITIES

PUMPKIN BOWLING

For this activity you will need several small, round pumpkins, three to six empty soda bottles with the caps for pins and either sand or kitty litter to weigh the bottles down. Carefully cut the stems off of the pumpkins so that they can roll efficiently. How many small pumpkins to buy will depend on how many kids will be playing the game as the pumpkins can break. Try and plan for two to three kids per pumpkin with a few spares should they break. Next, carefully place the sand or litter in the bottles and seal them and place them in a row several feet away from the starting point. The number of bottle-pins you use should depend on the age group of the children. Three pins is sufficient for kids under five; add more pins for older kids to add difficulty to the game. Keep a tally on the score and reward the kids for the points the get by hitting the bottles.

PUMPKIN RING TOSS

This is another fun game for the little ones that can also be modified for bigger kids. All you need are a few pumpkins, carved or not, and rings wide enough to fit over the pumpkins. If you do not have something ring-like available, visit the local hardware store and either pick up rope to tie into a ring or small quantities of plastic-covered wiring that can be taped together with duct tape. Simply place your pumpkins at a distance and toss away the rings, reward the winners.

HALLOWEEN PINATAS

Piñatas are fun for any kid's party but it's even more fun when the tykes get to make them themselves. This activity should be started a few days before Halloween as they can take some time to dry. To make a simple, round piñata that a child can decorate, you will need 2 cups flour, 3 cups water, 1 balloon, 1-inch strips of newspaper, paint, crayons, or markers, coloured crepe paper and string.

Inflate your balloon to the desired size and tie off the end. Next, mix the flower and water to create a paste. Dip the strips of newspaper into the bowl of paste and place them on the balloon until it is covered, leaving a hole in the top to insert the goodies and allow the piñata to dry, repeat this step three times. When piñata is completely dry, pop the balloon and remove it as it is now time for the kids to decorate their piñata with their favourite Halloween imagery. Fill the piñata with toys, candy and surprises and extra newspaper so that not all of the surprises fall out at the same time. Pierce two holes in the top near the hole so that string can be strung through it to hang the piñata, seal the creation with some remaining newspaper strips and paste and allow for drying. You can also stuff enough newspaper into the top of the piñata over the surprises so that none fall out. Hang and hit!

BLACK VS ORANGE BALLOON BATTLE

For this activity you need orange and black balloons, string or ribbon and sufficient room to let the kids run around. Divide the players into two teams, black or orange and then tie a corresponding, inflated balloon around the ankle of each player. When the game starts the object is to burst the balloon of the opposing team members. When all of one team's balloons are popped, a team wins.

GUESS HOW MUCH THE PUMPKIN WEIGHS

This is an easy one and it's great to help kids learn weights and measurements. The party planner should weigh out a pumpkin prior to the party and record the weight. Take guesses from all of the kids and award the closest guesser a prize.

BONE RACE

This game idea came from the about.com website and it's really quite simple. Print out the PDF available on the site from the link below and cut out the bones or if you can find them, purchase cut out or plastic skeletons. When the game organizer says go, each child or pair of children have to race to put their skeleton together and whoever puts all of the right bones in their proper spots first, wins. http://childparenting.about.com/od/halloween-parties/ss/halloweengames_3.htm

JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 22nd, 2007

At the Mistissini Lodge in Mistissini

The Public is invited to attend

Starts at 9:00 am

For more information, please contact:
Elaine MacLeod,
Executive Director
Tel: 418-923-3191
or e-mail:
elaine@creeradionetwork.com

Freddie Mianscum

50,000 Hours Accident-Free Award

Freddie Mianscum, a young Cree from Mistissini received an award from the Quebec Mining Association in Val d'Or, Qc on September 18, 2007 for reaching 50,000 hours accident-free under his leadership as one of the operation's foremen at the Troilus Mine. Freddie Mianscum is the first Cree to receive this award.

Freddie Mianscum receives congratulations from Bentley Mianscum of Inmet - Troilus division.

The members of the **Cree Nation of Mistissini** recognize the importance and take pride in his achievement and wish to congratulate Freddie Mianscum receiving this prestigious award.

Cree Nation of Mistissini

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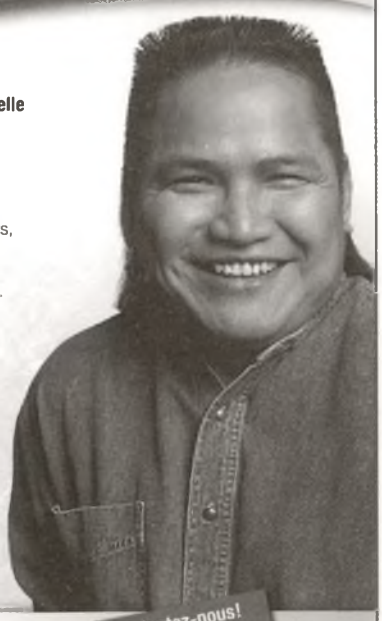

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Eyeball Relay Race

To play this game you will need ping-pong balls or eggs with eyes drawn on them, a spoon for each team and kids divided into teams. Set up a relay course around the room that each team member must run around; team members must complete the course without dropping the eyeball on the spoon and pass it off to the next player. If the team member drops the eyeball they must start over. First team to get all of the players through the course wins.

Halloween Pictionary

For this activity you will need a plastic jack-o-lantern, a chalkboard or large drawing board and strips of paper. Fill the jack-o-lantern with Halloween words on the strips of paper – witch, ghost, black cat and so forth. For this game, divide the group of kids into two teams. One team sends a person up to a board, draws a name out of the plastic jack-o-lantern and then attempts to draw a word in a picture. The team must guess what it is. A two-minute time limit should be set as this game can go on for a long time. Keep rotating until everyone has a chance to draw. Whichever team guesses the most correct answers wins!

Halloween Treats

What is Halloween without something fun to eat? Though the temptation to go wild on all of the high-sugar, high-fat treats seems hard to resist at Halloween, planning out smart treats is a good way to curb the madness, especially if weight control and blood sugar is an issue for partygoers. One good way to take the emphasis off overindulgence is to give out non-edible treats such as stickers, small toys like little rubber balls, plastic spiders and other toys. But if you are hosting an event, something must be served. Here are some suggestions for spooky snacks and scary treats that are not as bad, but try to remember that moderation is key.

Healthy Chewy Candy Drops

2 tbsp smooth peanut butter
1/4 cup honey
1/2 cup granola
1/4 cup raisins
1/4 cup coconut

Blend together the peanut butter and honey in a bowl with a wooden spoon and then add the granola and raisins. Stir until the mixture is well blended. Cover the mixture with wax or parchment paper and chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes to one hour as it will make the mixture easier to deal with.
Take the chilled mixture out of the fridge and ball a spoonful of the candy mixture in your hand, creating a small ball. Drop the candy ball into the coconut and roll until covered. Place the candy ball on a plate and continue the process until all of the mixture is used up. Return the candy balls to the refrigerator for one hour to chill or until just before serving. Recipe should yield about 12 candy balls.

Per one candy ball serving: 77 calories; 3 g fat; 12 g carbohydrates; 15 mg Sodium; 2 g protein, 7 mg calcium; 0 cholesterol. Exchanges: 1 carbohydrate; 1 fat.

Cold Chocolate Munchy Snacks

1/2 pkg sugar-free chocolate pudding mix
1 cup skim milk
1-1/2 cups peanut butter
36 graham cracker squares
1 envelope reduced-calorie whipped topping mix

Follow the package instructions for the pudding mix. If you can find it, it's ideal to use the kind of pudding here that requires cooking. Allow to cool thoroughly. Mix in the peanut butter with the pudding and then drop two tablespoons of the mixture onto each graham cracker square. Top the mixture with the whipped topping and then cover with another graham cracker. Place all cracker sandwiches on a plate and put into the freezer until serving time. If you wrap these cracker sandwiches individually, they can stay in the freezer for weeks at a time. The recipe should yield approximately 18 servings.

Per one sandwich serving: 200 calories; 12 g total fat; 17 g carbohydrate; 8 g protein; 142 mg sodium. Exchanges: 1 starch/bread; 1 medium-fat meat; 1 fat.

Handy Punch

One or two packages of sugar free strawberry Jello or other sugar-free gelatine
One or two packages of sugar free grape Jello or other sugar-free gelatine
Two adult-sized latex or vinyl gloves, washed and rinsed out
2 cups hot water
1 to 2 cups cold water
Two or three packages of your favourite sugar-free punch

Dissolve the Jello or sugar-free gelatine products in the hot water and add the one to two cups of cold water. You can use one or two packages depending on how dark you want the hands to be, the more gelatine you use, the darker the colour. Pour the mixture into the gloves, tie ends tightly, place in freezer. Mix your sugar-free punch in a punch bowl. Just prior to serving, add the thoroughly frozen hands to the punch, serve and scare!

Should you be hosting or planning a Halloween party for those who are concerned about their diet or blood sugar, it's never a bad idea to have other things on hand like fruit and cheese platters, with low-fat whole grain crackers, vegetables and low fat dip. By decorating the plates with plastic spiders and other Halloween-themed decorations, just about anything healthy can take on a spooky theme and still be fun to eat. The American Diabetes Association recommends that for kids who are suffering from diabetes, it's always better to take the focus off of the foods and instead put more effort into other aspects of Halloween. Put the focus on the costumes and activities like visiting a haunted house or community party. If they are going to have candy, to make sure they get a little extra exercise in the days around Halloween. A Halloween-themed dance party is always a great way for people to come together, get some exercise and have fun.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Drillers and blasters wanted in the Nord-du-Québec region

It's no accident that, since March 2007, the Commission scolaire de la Baie-James has been offering a Drilling and Blasting diploma, in cooperation with the Cree School Board and with the agreement of the Commission de la construction du Québec. In fact, Drilling and Blasting students will be very much in demand in the region and all over Québec once they have completed their training.

A dozen Cree students are taking the 900-hour Drilling and Blasting course, offered in English, at the CFP de la Jamésie (Jamésie vocational training centre) in Chibougamau. The distinctive feature of this course is that most of the training is in the field.

In fact, the group did some major blasting on July 13th at the Grande Ligne quarry in Alma. Students dynamited 15,000 metric tons of blue granite, which will be used to make gravel for road construction. It was a very powerful moment, as their training was transformed into fascinating results. The students really appreciate the practical field experience, and more of these exercises are planned during their training.

A dozen Cree students are taking the 900-hour Drilling and Blasting course, offered in English.

More and more youths and adults are turning to vocational training because it leads to jobs that are not only interesting but well-paid.

With the increasing labour shortages that our region's various economic sectors are facing over the next few years, the CFP de la Jamésie is making every effort to provide the mining and construction industries with trained and specialized graduates to meet their workforce needs. Vocational training is therefore a win-win solution for anyone who wants to get into the job market quickly... and stay there.

Vocational training is standing out as one of the pathways to the qualifications and diversified training that Native youths and adults need to succeed, and that the region needs to foster its economic development.

Accordingly, this special cooperation between the Cree School Board and the Commission scolaire de la Baie-James contributes to offering you quality services that meet your needs.

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For more information :
418-748-7621, option 2, ext. 3334

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

It's been a long time coming

by Xavier Kataquapit

There is a lot of activity happening in Canada's northern regions. We always knew that resource development would happen some day near our remote First Nation communities. After all, we are surrounded by millions of acres of untouched forests. Very few people know what lies under the rock and the mushkeg. The rivers are brimming with untapped hydroelectric power.

For all sorts of reasons, this potential development never happened in the past. Whether it was due to timing, remoteness and high capital costs, the Far North has been slow to develop. Now this is all changing and, more and more, companies are looking to our traditional lands in search of natural resources to develop hydro-electric, forestry and mining projects.

Most First Nations look forward to many of these developments as they will mean jobs and business opportunities for community members. These resource-based projects provide some hope for a prosperous future instead of looking towards uncertain government funding to develop our communities.

But this development is a double-edged sword for First Nations communities. Even though we look forward to potential prosperity, we also understand that these activities are taking place on our traditional lands and they will forever change the way we live.

Massive projects which remove great tracts of forest, change the course of rivers and gouge the land will inevitably mean that many of our traditional ways are lost or constrained. Our people have great respect for the land and when it is altered in a substantial way we wonder what will happen to the wilderness, to the environment and to the creatures that live on the land.

So much is changing so fast. Resource-based projects are moving ahead and we will have to adapt. These wide-ranging projects may take years to complete. In the end they will affect just about every aspect of our lives and the lives of generations to come.

Sometimes these projects are already well established before nearby First Nations gain an understanding of what they mean for the future. These fast-paced situations create conflicts for First Nations dealing with companies working on their traditional lands.

This past summer there was a major ruling involving the case of Platinex Inc. vs. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, in which the Ontario Supreme Court upheld an injunction that prevented Platinex from moving ahead with development without consultation with the First Nation involved. Now, all parties have the opportunity to sit down and implement the project in a mutually respectful way.

Regretfully, First Nations have had to fight for the right to be consulted and included in projects that are taking place on their lands. Provincial and federal governments are slow to put in place a structure that would make this process easier by providing revenue sharing. The sooner that this can happen, the better it will be for resource companies so that projects can move ahead without hitches.

In northeastern Ontario, the Wabun Tribal Council has been very active in negotiating and working with resource companies. Recently, three of the tribal council's communities – Wahgoshig, Matachewan and Mattagami – came together to negotiate with Liberty Mines to develop several mining projects in the Timmins area. The three communities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the mining company. The communities agreed to support continued development in return for benefits, opportunities and that promise of future negotiations to address the First Nation's concerns regarding mining development.

Resource companies that are planning for the future now realize they are the new kids on the block. We First Nation peoples have been following our traditional pursuits on our lands since the dawn of time. It is good to see First Nations and the resource developers sitting down at the table to negotiate agreements that make life easier for everyone.

Gone are the days of unbridled development and the exclusion of First Nations from their traditional lands. We have a lot to offer when it comes to development on our lands. We have an ancient and sacred trust as keepers of the land and although we do not want to rule out beneficial resource development we certainly have a different perspective when it comes to a relationship with the land.

SABTUAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL
TRAINING CENTRE

1 Elder David Neeposh Street
Waswanipi, Qc., J0Y 3C0
Tel: (819)753-4040, (819)753-2636
Fax: (819)753-2640
Toll Free: 1-866-921-4040

The S.R.V.T.C. in Waswanipi is proud to offer the following vocational courses

ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS
October 22, 2007
630 hrs
Deadline - Sept. 28/07

ACCOUNTING
January 08, 2008
1350 hrs
Deadline - Dec. 07/07

PROFESSIONAL COOKING
November 14, 2007
1350 hrs
Deadline - Oct. 17/07

HAIRDRESSING
February 18, 2008
1455 hrs
Register in November

NORTHERN HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
Part 1–Oct 20 to Dec 1 2007
Part 2–April 20
to Aug 20 2008
Deadline - Sept. 28/07

CARPENTRY OR CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICITY
February 04, 2008
1350 hrs
Register in November

For application forms, please see the adult education consultant responsible for your community or call Nancy Mianscum in Waswanipi. Be sure to include all the required documents.

Please send all registrations to the S.R.V.T.C. to the attention of Nancy Mianscum, administrative technician.
Fax: 819-753-2640

See also the C.H.R.D.'s Cree Employment Officer (C.E.O.) in your community to arrange your allowances.

For more information
please call 1-866-921-4040
and ask for Nancy Mianscum or Luc Collette.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS – 100

Congratulations! to Gloria Lameboy and Bruce Coonishish on the birth of their son, Brayden-Silas Solomon Coonishish, born on September 25, at 12:25pm, weighing 6lbs 13onces (will have same birthday as his daddy). Bruce, your wish came true..happy belated birthday...CONGRATULATIONS! From..u know who? Guess!

BIRTHDAYS – 101

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my boyfriend, Curtis Pepabano. He celebrated his birthday on Oct. 8, 2007, Thanksgiving, mmm that was a good supper, lol, ouwah. Curtis ur getting older everyday, shash mook 20 lol, congrats my man :P luv ya so much. And also, I would like to wish my brother-in-law, Patrick Loon (baach) a happy belated birthday. His birthday was on the 6th of Oct. I hope you had fun celebrating your birthday with my handsome nephews and my beautiful twin sister, Lillian. Sorry for not calling u to wish u a happy birthday. At least I remembered, ehh? Well, happy birthday guys, and many more birthdays to celebrate. Merissa.

I would like to wish a happy 18th birthday to Cynthia Mary Jane Sheshamush. So, happy birthday and many more years to come. Hey, don't party too much without me...lol...don't even think about going to the RESTO without...lol...wait for me till next year...lmao...Once again, Happy 18th birthday and many more to come again...lol...from one of your best friends in Whap.

WEDDINGS – 102

I would like to congratulate my cousin Charlene Blacksmith & her fiancé Jonathan Bosum on their up-coming wedding on October 20th, 2007. Congrats to both of you! Love: Ur matron of honour, Naomi.

ANNIVERSARIES – 103

I would like to say happy fiveth anniversary the man I love with all my heart and soul. Our anniversary is on October 19th, 07. I think you know who you are. Well all these year we've been together you've been good to me and you're always there for me whenever I need a little help from you. I thank-you for everything that you help me with and gave me. You are my everything, and I love you with all my heart, thanks. Once again, happy fiveth anniversary my love...Love always, your Wife x.o.x.o.x.o.x.

We would like to say Happy fourth anniversary to Emily & Warren Duff, from Chisasibi on October 10th, 07. Hope you guys had fun on your anniversary, and many more years to come. Once again, happy fourth anniversary...from: S.S.S & E.G.S. in Wemindji.

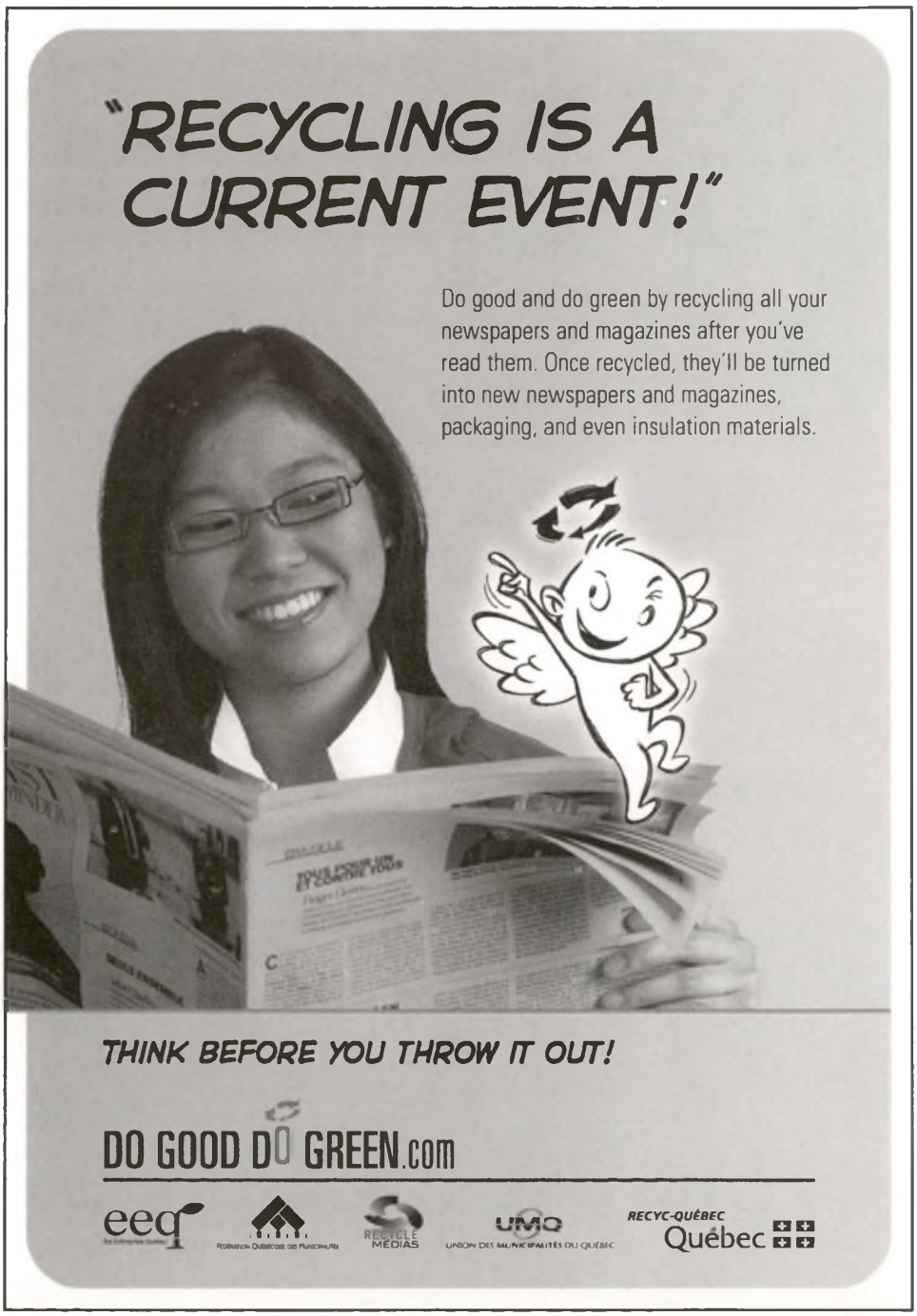
PERSONAL MESSAGES - 300

House for sale, 91 Iberville, Radisson. House with furniture, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 washing room, wood stove + wood, shed, snow plower, boat with motor, snowmobile polaris 800 2003 + extra.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS - 400

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out our website at: www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call Kid's Help Phone's toll-free at: 1-800-668-6868, or visit: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.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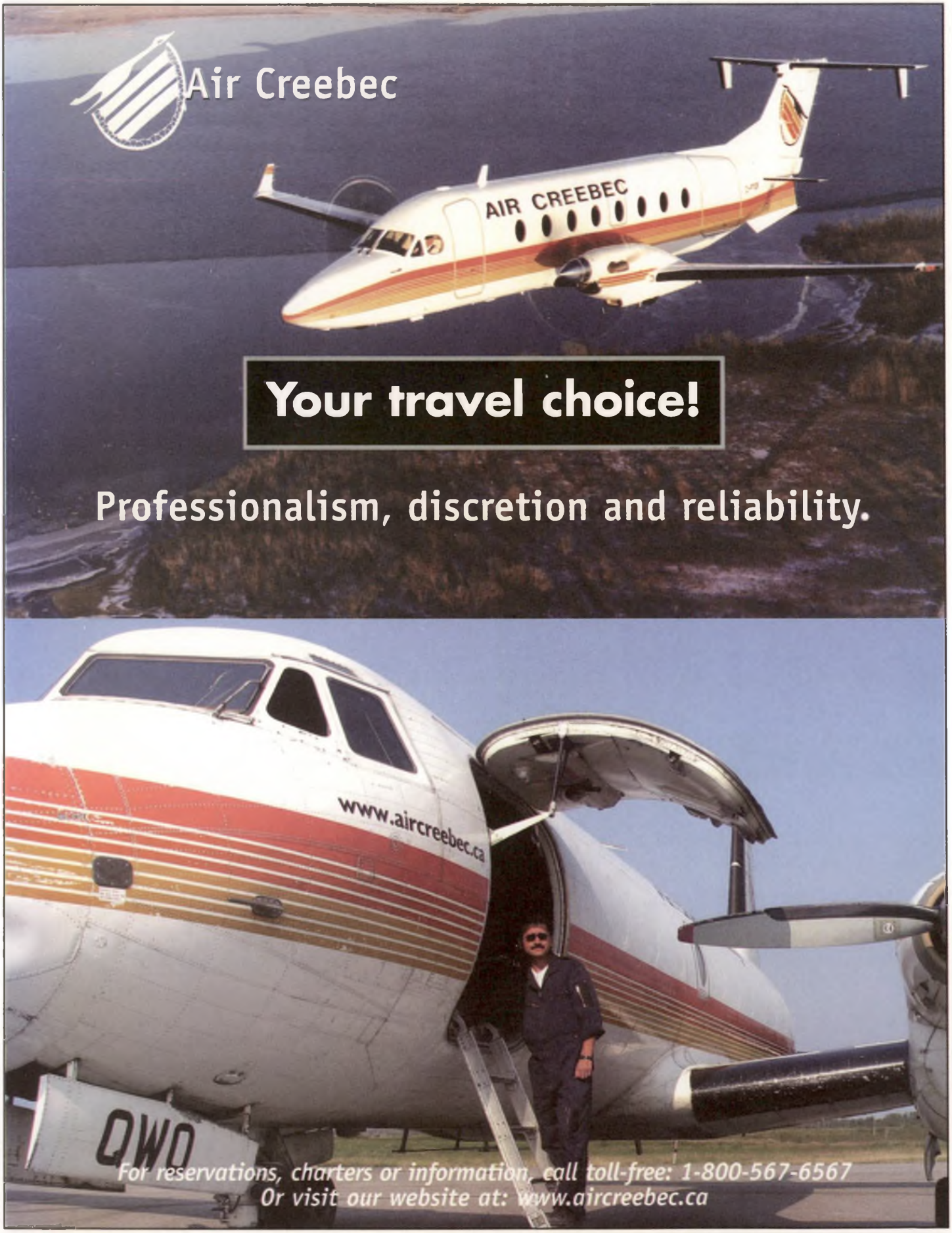
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TEHQ PROGRAM RECRUITMENT TOUR

How would you like to be qualified in one of these career choices?
- Apparatus Electrician
- Apparatus Mechanic
- Automation Electronics Technician
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The Niskamoon Corporation, in partnership with the Cree School Board and Hydro-Quebec, will be visiting your community to assist you in obtaining a career with Hydro-Quebec through the TEHQ Program.
There are a minimum of 150 Cree permanent positions with Hydro-Quebec within the James Bay territory for you once you have graduated from your choice of enriched education programs in one of the partner institutions.
For more information on these programs, please contact your local Niskamoon Coordinator.
We'll see you there!

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ᒥᐁᐠ ᒪᐠ 150 ᐊᐱᐢᐊᐢᑕᐢ ᐊᐱᑎᓀᐦᐃᓐᐢ ᑌ ᑎ ᐃᑕᐱᑎᓀᐦᐃᐠ ᐃᐢᐢᐅᐠ ᐊᓂᑕᐢ "ᐊᐃᑎᐦ ᐁᐯ ᐊᓂᑕᐢ ᐧᐃᐅᒥᐠ ᐯᐃ ᐊᐠᐢᐧ, ᐊᐅᐧᐁ ᒪᐠ ᐊ ᐃᓂᓴᐁᐢᐧ ᑌ ᑎ ᐃᑕᐱᑎᓀᐦᐃᓐᓴᐋᐦ ᒥᓄ ᑎᓂ ᑭᐠᐁᑎᒪᒫᓴᓴᐁ ᐅ ᐸᐢᐁ ᐊ ᐃᓂ ᑭᐠᐁᑎᒪᒫᓴᓂᐦᐃᓐᓴᐠ.
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Whapmagoostui	November 5	Badabin Eeyou School	1:00 PM
Chisasibi	November 5	Public Presentation	7:00 PM
Chisasibi	November 6	James Bay Eeyou School	10:00 AM
Wemindji	November 6	Maquatua Eeyou School	2:00 PM
Wemindji	November 6	Public Presentation	7:00 PM
Eastmain	November 7	Public Presentation	1:00 PM
Waskaganish	November 7	Public Presentation	7:00 PM
Waskaganish	November 8	Wiinibekuu School	10:00 AM
Nemaska	November 8	Luke Mettaweskum School	2:00 PM
Nemaska	November 8	Public Presentation	7:00 PM
Amos	November 9	Public Presentation	1:00 PM
Mistissini	November 13	Voyageur Memorial School	1:00 PM
Mistissini	November 13	Public Presentation	7:00 PM
Ouje-Bougoumou	November 14	Waapihtiiwewan School	1:00 PM
Ouje-Bougoumou	November 14	Public Presentation	7:00 PM
Waswanipi	November 20-22	Waswanipi Career Fair	Booth

*Locations for Public Presentations will be announced on your local radio stations. Please note that dates and times may be subject to change. Local radio stations will be updated with any changes.

Hydro Québec

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Cree School Board
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